LITHUANIAN ROUND TABLE DISCUSSES KALININGRAD'S FUTURE

VILNIUS, Aug 04, BNS - Moscow's position that the Kaliningrad region is an integral part of Russia is a "claim based on strength and the West's spiritual weakness," says Lithuanian opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis.

Landsbergis made the statement during a round-table discussion that was held Thursday in Vilnius by Lithuanian historians and politicians. He also noted that Kaliningrad was assigned to the Soviet Union, which no longer exists.

The discussion, called "Potsdam and Lithuania," was devoted to the effects of the Potsdam conference on Lithuania. Other speakers expressed the view that Kaliningrad could become a new Russian-speaking Baltic state or a territory under a Lithuanian administration.

Ceslovas Stankevicius, former chief Lithuanian negotiator at talks with Russia, said that Moscow cannot prohibit discussions on the future of Kaliningrad because it is not its internal affair.

LITHUANIAN OFFICIAL CRITICIZES ROUND TABLE ON KALININGRAD

VILNIUS, Aug 07, BNS - A high-ranking Lithuanian Foreign Ministry official on Monday voiced discontent with the round-table discussion. "Such a discussion, as an academic event, shows that public political thought is getting deeper, but statements by some Seimas (parliament) members and other officials can be qualified only as thoughtless and irresponsible, aimed at complicating Lithuania's relations with neighboring countries and at the same time to exert negative influence on the processes of Lithuania's integration into Europe,"the official told BNS on condition of anonymity.